

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - July 25, 2008**

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Matthew Tevis Passaro was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego based upon his conviction for failing to register as a sex offender, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2250(a). United States District Court Judge Roger T. Benitez sentenced Passaro to serve 18 months in custody and five years of supervised release following his release from prison. Judge Benitez also required Passaro to register (and maintain his registration) as a sex offender. Passaro tendered his guilty plea on March 21, 2008. This is the first conviction for this specific offense in this District.

On July 27, 2006, President Bush signed into law the “Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.” Part of the Act included the “Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act” (“SORNA”) codified as Title 18, United States Code, Section 2250, which makes it a federal felony offense to fail to register as a sex offender and travel in interstate or foreign commerce. The Act also mandated the creation of a national

sex offender registry accessible via the internet and requires every jurisdiction to maintain a sex offender registry with certain information set forth in SORNA, including name, aliases, address, social security number, place of employment and/or school, and vehicle information. The purpose of the law is to track the whereabouts of convicted sex offenders throughout the United States.

According to the court records, Passaro admitted that he was previously convicted in New Jersey of sexual assault on a minor between 13 and 16 years of age, he traveled to San Diego in March 2007 and he knowingly failed to both register as a sex offender in San Diego and to update his registration in New Jersey. Paasaro was ultimately arrested in West Palm Beach, Florida in July 2007 and returned to San Diego to face prosecution.

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 07cr2308-BEN**

MATTHEW T. PASSARO

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 18, United States Code, Section 2250 (Failing to Register as a Sex Offender)

**AGENCIES**

United States Marshals Service  
San Diego Police Department  
San Diego Harbor Police Department